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COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

WEST SUFFOLK.

R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year
1941.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the existence of solutions of the system of equations

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = P(x, y, z), \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = Q(x, y, z), \quad \frac{dz}{dt} = R(x, y, z),$$

where P, Q, R are continuous functions of x, y, z and

Public Health Offices,

Westgate House,

13, Westgate Street,

Bury St. Edmunds.

June, 1942.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Cosford,
in the County of West Suffolk.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable
consideration my sixth Annual Report as Medical Officer
of Health, being for the year ended December 31st, 1941.

Owing to the War the report has been limited on
the instructions of the Minister of Health.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON,

M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,

also Medical Officer of Health,
Newmarket Urban, Mildenhall,
Thedwastre & Thingoe Rural
Districts and

Assistant County Medical Officer
of Health - West Suffolk.

Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor.

W.M. Taylor, A.R.San.Inst.Meat & Other Foods Certificate,
Royal Sanitary Institute, also Petroleum
Officer.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 48,530 acres.

Registrar General's estimate
of the resident population:-

Mid 1941	Mid 1940	Mid 1939	Mid 1938	Mid 1937	Mid 1936
10,790	9956	(a) 9230 (b) 9502	8941	8912	9091

No. of inhabited houses
at end of year according
to Rate Book 3102 3107 2975 2942 2923 2707

Rateable
Value £25,423 £25,480 £25,175 £24,701 £23,605 £23,210

Sum represented by
Penny Rate £116 £116 £113 £112 £107 £105

Unemployment was practically non-existent during the
year throughout this agricultural district.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births. Legitimate	I.M.	158	74	84
	B.R.	141	64	77
Illegitimate	I.M.	2	-	2
	B.R.	2	-	2

= (a) & (B.R.) for the calculation of Birth Rates
(b) & (I.M.) for the calculation of Death Rates or
the incidence of notifiable diseases.

Birth Rate.	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936
Cosford Rural District	13.3	12.1	14.0	13.2	12.2	15.4
England and Wales	14.2	14.6	15.0	15.1	14.7	14.8

Still Births. 1941.	Total	Male	Female.
Legitimate	6	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936
	36.1	23.1	7.6	40.7	52.2	21.0

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total</u>	160	147	156	132	145	128
	Male	74	68	84	71	70	60
	Female	86	79	72	61	75	68

Death Rate per 1,000 Resident Population.

Cosford.	Crude	14.8	14.8	16.4	14.8	16.3	13.9
	Corrected	11.7	11.7	12.1	10.9	12.0	12.6
England & Wales		12.9	14.3	12.1	12.4	12.4	12.1

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age were 5 (4 males and 1 female) all legitimate children.

// No Corrected Death Rate for Cosford is available for 1941 as the Registrar General has been unable to provide an Areal Comparability Factor due, he states, to the magnitude of local population movements and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths throughout the Country.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

	<u>1941</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1936</u>
All infants per 1,000 live births	31.3	47.2	38.2	33.9	36.7	28.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	31.6	48.0	39.1	35.1	38.1	30.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	23	24	20	23	21	14
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 29)	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	2	Nil
(" " 30)	One					
Deaths from Measles	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil

On the following page is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes, as used in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, as set out on Page XXXIX of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Deaths 1938.

Deaths at the sub-joined ages of
"RESIDENTS" whether occurring in
or beyond District.

Heading Number.	M = Male F = Female	Under 1 Year		1 and under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 45		45 and under 65		65 and upwards		Total = Registrar General's Figures	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	1	1	4	3		
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
9	Influenza	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	3	4		
13	Cancer of b: cav: & oesoph: (M) uterus (F)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1		
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		
15	Cancer of Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3		
16	Cancer of all other sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	10	1	12	5		
18	Intracran: vasc: lesions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9	3	9	7		
19	Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	9	16	11	18		
20	Other Disease of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2		
21	Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	6	5		
22	Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-		
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		
26	Appendicitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1		
27	Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2		
28	Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	2	6		
30	Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1		
31	Premature Births	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1		
34	Road Traffic Accidents	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-		
35	Other Violent Causes	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	6	6	7		
36	All other causes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	7	16	11	17		
	TOTAL. Male	4	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	10	-	49	-	74	-
	Female	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	15	-	62	-	86		

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(ii)(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Service, as provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge under the Directorship of Dr. A.W. Downie, proved a very valuable addition to our Public Health facilities. In addition to the usual public health bacteriological examinations, the Service provided Monthly Progress Reviews, (giving information on bacteriological and epidemiological problems occurring throughout the country), examined water samples, provided diphtheria immunisation material and measles serum, members of their staff assisted at the diphtheria immunisation and Schick Testing, and Dr. Downie advised, sometimes by personal visits, on technical questions.

- | | | |
|---|---|------------|
| (b) <u>AMBULANCE FACILITIES.</u> |) | |
| (c) <u>NURSING IN THE HOME.</u> |) | |
| (d) <u>CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.</u> |) | No change. |
| (e) <u>HOSPITALS.</u> |) | |

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.(i) WATER.

All Public Supplies were satisfactorily maintained throughout the year - no new main extensions were made.

Following the Ministry of Health's representations that precautionary measures of chlorination should be applied over a wider field of water undertakings throughout the country, a chlorinating plant was fixed at Lavenham.

39 water samples were taken during the year; of these 24 were satisfactory, 2 suspicious and 13 unsatisfactory. Warning Notices were posted as required.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

15 new drains were tested and 24 cesspools emptied during the year.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Drainage Boards whose jurisdiction covers rivers and streams in the area, have cleared out and deepened numerous water courses in the district as part of their agricultural policy.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closets in use at the end of the year were:-

Privies	1435
Pail Closets	1156
Water Closets	128

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Early morning collections at Lavenham and Bildeston are carried out and in the evening at Boxford.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following particulars of sanitary work during 1941 have been supplied to me by Mr. Taylor:-

Number of inspections.

	Public Health Act	89
Houses	Housing Act	58
	Building Byelaws	8
Tents, vans, sheds.		4
Factories.		16
Shops.		29
Schools.		37
Cowsheds & Dairies.		78
Butcher's premises.		41
Samples (Milk 4, water 39)		43
Dumps & tips.		89
Drains, ditches & watercourses.		51
After Infectious Disease.		13
Miscellaneous.		297
Salvage.		158
Food preparing premises.		29
Re-inspections		61

Total:- 1,101.

Factory Act, 1937.

5 visits to Factories with mechanical power and 11 visits to Factories without mechanical power were made. No defects were found.

(iv) SHOPS & OFFICES. 29 visits were paid.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

1 site was used illegally by about 18 persons. This site was subsequently closed.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS & POOLS. No change.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. 1 complaint of bed bugs in a non-council house was received. Thermotox and Solution "D" were used successfully. The infestation was caused by the purchase of a contaminated second-hand bedstead.

4. SCHOOLS. 37 visits were made to schools in the area to inspect the water, washing and sanitary arrangements.

S E C T I O N D .

H O U S I N G .

1.(1)(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	147
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	183
(2)(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	23
2.	<u>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.</u>	
	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	19
3.	<u>The only Action under Statutory Powers during the year was the demolition of one dwellinghouse in pursuance of a Demolition Order.</u>	
4.	<u>Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.</u>	
(a)(i)	Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year	2
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	2
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	10
(b)	Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

S E C T I O N E .

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Cowkeepers registered	61
" " Cowsheds & Dairies	61
" " Registered Retailers	35
" " Visits to Cowsheds & Dairies	78
" " Notices issued in respect of unclean production of milk	Nil
" " Contraventions found	3
" " Premises found to require cleansing	2
" " Premises found to require structural alterations	2
" " Bacteriological samples taken	4
Legal proceedings	Nil

MILK SUPPLY (Continued)

During the month of September the Sanitary Inspectors in my five Districts were instructed to concentrate as much as possible on inspections of cowsheds and dairies. Early in October a meeting was held at which their reports on conditions and difficulties were discussed.

There is every reason in wartime why milk should not be wasted by souring and every avoidable illness caused by unclean milk diverts from the national effort. To avoid this waste and diversion the co-operation of several sections is essential. Some examples that appeared to require stressing were:-

The Purchaser should avoid the use of unclean jugs or doubtful containers, and now that deliveries are restricted to one each day the most suitable storage place in houses, often inadequately equipped for food storage for the family and perhaps an evacuated family, should be used.

The Retailer should be equipped with sufficient bottles to obviate the practice of filling, before the proper washing, of bottles collected on the round.

The Wholesaler now that his inspections are curtailed by petrol restrictions should review the suitability of the wayside stands from which he collects the milk and more accurately forecast his collection time so that the milk does not stand unprotected from the sun for long periods.

The Milk Producer is often handicapped by other interests, harvesting, especially in small establishments, can often upset the milking routine. He is handicapped by insufficient or unskilled or juvenile labour and many other matters, but despite his handicaps, unless his and other persons efforts are to be of no avail, he must seek how best to balance his use of restricted paraffin needed to pump the water for his cooler, the shortage of muslins and filtering pads as of overalls and headgear. Much could be accomplished by constant provision of hand washing facilities, by readily removable blackout, by insistence of cleanliness of floors and approaches and by confining the dairy to use solely as a dairy.

The Milker is handicapped by shortage of labour, by poor artificial light owing to blackout in the early morning - he can nevertheless develop a satisfactory realisation of the meaning of "asepsis". He can avoid "wet milking" and delay in sterilising utensils after milking.

The Sanitary Inspector. His object is to avoid waste of milk by souring and to see that only clean milk reaches the public. His task, therefore, is to assist all concerned in milk production and distribution - to this end there appears to be nothing more important to him than regular visits and discussions. It is essential, however, that no one should be overburdened with several visits from a multitude of different officials - to prevent this the closest and happiest arrangements have been made with the County Council's Officers, responsible for the licensed milks, Officers of the War Agricultural Executive Committee and the Veterinary Surgeons of the Ministry of Health.

The inspections and discussions showed quite definitely that with goodwill all round the difficulties in providing a fresh, clean milk can be overcome.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	Nil
" " Licensed	1
" " Visits to	Nil

56 lbs of butter and 95 lbs of bacon were condemned as unfit for human consumption and disposed of.

41 visits to butchers' shops were made.

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

No

(d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Change.

(e) NUTRITION.

Besides participating in the National Milk Scheme other more local interests in nutrition were manifest by a Pie Scheme, the canning of fruits and vegetables, and the collection of Rose Hips.

S E C T I O N F.

PREVALENCE OF, & CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases which occurred during the year:-

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1941.

Disease	Total cases notified.	Age in Years												Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		7	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	45	65		
Scarlet Fever	19	-	-	-	2	2	8	6	-	1	-	-	-	3	-
Whooping Cough	102	11	7	12	7	16	42	4	-	1	1	-	1	1	-
Diphtheria	11	1	-	1	1	-	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	4	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-
Measles	284	9	12	22	21	26	126	39	16	7	6	-	-	3	-
Pneumonia	9	-	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	1
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:-	436	23	19	35	32	44	182	52	18	12	9	6	4	12	3

Preventative measures against the spread of infection and other diseases during 1941 included the medical examination of arriving evacuees, diphtheria immunisation, the issue of measles serum and measures for the detection and treatment of scabies.

Parents responded beyond expectations to the offer of Diphtheria Immunisation for their children, so that by the end of 1941 the following had been protected by the Local Authority:-

364 children under 5 years of age (estimate 46%)
1,092 children 5 years or more but
under 15 years (estimate 91%)

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1941.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	1
5 - 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	5	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 65	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Total	7	5	3	5	4	3	-	1
1940	1	4	-	1	1	2	-	1
1939	6	2	4	2	3	4	-	-
1938	1	5	-	2	-	3	-	1
1937	2	9	-	1	4	3	1	-
1936	5	4	2	2	-	3	-	1

The 44 cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1941, together with corresponding figures for 1940, 1939, 1938, 1937 and 1936 are shown below:-

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
31. 12. 41.	19	12	3	10	22	22
31. 12. 40.	14	9	4	8	18	17
31. 12. 39.	16	7	6	7	22	14
31. 12. 38.	15	10	7	7	22	17
31. 12. 37.	14	13	8	9	22	22
31. 12. 36.	17	10	14	8	31	18